fully tested, and its advantages generally acknowledged, but it would appear that its applicability to house building has been greatly overlooked. If it were brought more into use with respect to our dwellings, the manufacture would receive a considerable impulse, which could not fail to operate beneficially on the national industry. G. J. Rhodes.

THE INSTRUCTIONS AS TO THE BUILDING FOR THE '51 EXHIBITION.

Where honorary distinction is alone the reward of ingenious ability, it at least becomes desirable, if not essential, to render every reasonable facility to develop what is required. Upon taking up the plan issued by the Commission for the Exhibition of Industry of all Nations, the absence of sections of the surface line (both longitudinal and transverse) over the site destined for the proposed buildings, at once becomes apparent to the designer of a building so vast in relation to size and varied with regard to object.

Any edifice, however temporary in character, if covering a space of 700,000 square feet, *must* somewhere present sufficient horizontal line to demonstrate the varying features of the ground surface. No correct notion of the relative height of that surface can be gathered from the plan just issued. If sections were not given out on the score of expense, altitudinal figures might have been expressed, and these heights based on a common datum point near the locality. Such figures upon the plan would have afforded *data* as to the difference of level at certain points; and, although from a glance on the spot, the site may *appear* a tolerably level plane, yet the actual difference of height *between* the north-west point (by Kensington Gardens entrance) and the south-east point (near Knightsbridge Barracks) rather exceeds *fourteen feet*, and the difference of level *between* the north-east point of the site in question and the south-west point is *above seven feet*: whereas the *centre* again differs from either end.

Now, the plan thus ushered forth, with the *prestige* of authority, bearing the impress of all nations, and offering a scale of English feet, and another of French metres, is evidently *intended* and expected to have a wide range. With it, therefore, some reference to the levels of the spot in question was necessary, and could easily have been supplied.

Again, one of the "rules and conditions" is —"groups of trees shown on the plan must be preserved," but it no where states that the group of trees *not* shewn on the plan may be destroyed. If so, a group of *ten* trees from 30 to 40 feet high, now existing near, and *north* of, the "Prince of Wales" gate, are liable to be removed, or to render inutile those designs which threaten their destruction.

Wm. Yates Peebody.

COMPLETION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS FOR 1851.

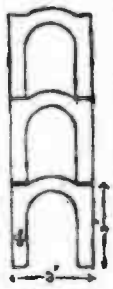
The great Industrial Exhibition will probably gather together in this metropolis a greater number of foreigners, as well as of visitors of all grades from every part of this country, than have ever been assembled in London since the visit of the allied sovereigns at the peace of 1814. As invited guests, therefore, it becomes us to offer them a hearty and hospitable English welcome. But especially all public buildings, and monuments, and institutions,—all public walks, and gardens, and improvements,—and, in short, everything that serves to illustrate the national character in its corporate capacity, should be duly prepared for the auspicious occasion. This will be the best mode of showing our sympathy, and will be doing no more than what is fair towards the illustrious prince who has so nobly and unhesitatingly rendered himself responsible for the manner in which this great social festival is to be carried into effect: above all, it becomes the Government to set the example, by urging forward as much as possible all those public improvements and embellishments which are under their own immediate direction and control.

The three chief points of attraction to all strangers will, of course, be the Houses of Parliament, the British Museum, and the Queen's Palace. These important buildings are, happily, in regard to their external works, in a state approaching completion, and but little effort will be necessary to finish them. As the people have generously undertaken to promote the primary objects of the exhibition at their own voluntary charge, the least that can be expected is that the funds for the above works should, if needful, be anticipated. The Nelson column and the works at the Tower, as well, also, as a place for the Vernon collection, ought in like manner to be suitably provided for. The credit of the whole country is at stake as to the manner in which this great industrial experiment is to be conducted.

If all classes and parties cordially unite to carry it to a successful issue, we may anticipate for the metropolis, in 1851, a season of prosperity, gaiety, and splendour, which it has not witnessed for some time past, and which may go far to obliterate the remembrance of the last few years of comparative depression and gloom. Watchman.

A BRICK FOR PARTITIONS.

Seeing we shall have the brick duty speedily taken off, and that we shall have no hindrance to the form, size, or pattern of bricks or tiles for building purposes, I send a sketch of a tile I have used some time for partitions (and as a substitute for battening walls) with great success. They are light, cheaper than lath and plaster, besides preventing sound, and when built with good sand mortar or cement are as solid as brick. I have used them 3 inches square and 12 inches long, but they might be made of any length or size: where used in place of brick nogging they can be made flat on the crown. I have had some partially cut before they were burnt, so as to make headers and closers, when they break without trouble.



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"NOTES AND QUERIES"—BUT NOT FOR LONDON COMMON COUNCILMEN.

A paragraph in a recent leading article suggests the above title, and the following remarks on the so-called city improvements. Your correspondent evidently imagines there is only one mode of doing a thing, viz., a straightforward one; but probably if he be a citizen he may in time arrive at the dignity of a committeeman, and then he will find that there are many things to be considered besides making the new street. First and foremost are the properties of the various wealthy city companies, most of whom have their friends either on the committee, or so directly connected with some of its members, as to have no cause for apprehension of their interests being damaged.

Next come private interests cloaked as public good—a disguise which allows them to be urged with greater pertinacity, and generally so well answers its purpose that none but an observing few suspect the apparent actors to be mere puppets in the hands of the high priest of the oracle. Your correspondent styles the "improvements" a picture of idleness: allow me to suggest the conversion of the place into a skittle-ground, in order to make the picture perfect. During the three years which have elapsed since the "improvements" commenced, the progress made has been confined to some 150 yards of frontage, leaving as much more to be done in the next two years, to say nothing of the Leadenhall-market improvement, which is embodied in the same Act. Claims which ought to have been settled before the end of six months have been barely settled at the end of twelve months, the committee having in the mean time been occupied in litigating about the amount of compensation to be given for the lease of a lodging-house and some half-dozen square yards of parish burial-ground, in both which cases, and indeed, I believe, in every other with which they have gone into court, they have been handsomely beaten.

So far the notes,—now for the queries. I have for some time been wishing for an opportunity of finding some one who could solve a doubt or two connected with these same "improvements" for me. These be they: Did the committee commence "their work at the middle" to suit the convenience of one of their own body? Has any one made a tender for a single foot of this ground "without a proper approach," except Deputy ——, who is reported to have taken on lease the site of his old house? And, lastly, can a party after obtaining compensation for moving from A to B claim a second compensation for removing from B to A—both A and B being on the line of the proposed improvements?—I am your obedient servant,

But not a Common Councilman.

EXHIBITION: SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

We mentioned briefly last week some of the principal exhibitors. Mr. Hurlstone has several excellent works; we would particularly point out,—38, "Portrait of the Son of Mr. Hopwood" (in which the hound is painted by Mr. Ansdell); 161, "Putting on the Headdress,"—a rich piece of colour; and 265, "Lady Macbeth."——Mr. Baxter's "Portrait of Mr. Clint," 12, is admirable.——Mr. Allen's principal work, "Cooper's Hill, with Windsor Castle in the distance," is a fine landscape, in the painter's best manner.——Mr. Herring has several pictures in his particular walk, superior to anything he has yet done; we would particularly mention No. 75, "A Poulterer and Dealer in Game" (placed too low), and 19, "Interior of Stable."——Mr. Montague has greatly improved.——Mr. Woolmer has not done so to the extent his early pictures promised.——Mr. Gill's "Doctor — Advice Gratis," 32, would sell for a large sum if it had been painted by an old Dutchman.——Mr. A. Clint has, as usual, some excellent landscapes, especially 55, "At Upgang, near Whitby."

Mr. Anthony's large picture, "Windings of the Wye," is, in our opinion, a mistake,—the more to be regretted because of the genius of the artist. His "Study in a Country Churchyard," 331, is an extraordinary work, of wonderful power.——Mr. Prentis has a clever Hogarthian picture, which he calls "The Folly of Extravagance;" Mr. Pyne a number of elegant transcripts of pure, bright atmosphere; Mr. Salter "A Bacchanalian Dance," 87, which found some admirers; and Mr. Noble a picture of the E. M. Ward school, from the diary of wanton Pepys.

Amongst other pictures which we had marked for notice are 22, "Vale of Llanrwst," by H. J. Boddington; 74, "Thames Craft, Moonlight," by E. Hassell; 80, "A Young Student," by C. Compton; 100, "Waterfall near Haeg, Norway," by W. West; 124, "The Village Pastor," from Goldsmith, by James Godwin; 164, "Tea-table Chat," by Clayter; 307, "Evening on the Thames," by J. D. Wingfield; 366, "Too Late," by J. W. Glass; and, "A Quiet Vale," by S. R. Percy.

With much that is pretty and pleasing, there is, we regret to say, very little that is *great*.

THE LONDON DRAINAGE PLANS AND THINGS TO DO.

Permit me to suggest that those gentlemen who have forwarded plans to the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers, should establish such an union between themselves, as might guarantee both their own plans and the subject at large fair and full consideration.

Some rather curious remarks were made by a worthy member of this commission, who is made to say that "persons thought they would live longer under an altered system of sewerage." Why the commission itself is a living evidence of the extent to which this superbly fallacious idea is entertained. Yes; from those who enjoy the seven stinks opposite Buckingham Palace to the undrained Poplarities, there is great unanimity—an idea absolutely "fixed." I would advise the commissioners to take some account of it. Some people, too, are absurd enough to think they would thrive better on other air than the gases of inhumed humanity, and are thought to have gone far towards getting rid of the latter.

True, there are a thousand evils that beset

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